

Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

FRANCES NEELAND

By a gossamer thread of circumstances lifestyles are sometimes changed. It certainly was true in the case of Frances Neeland who has been chosen Rossmoor Corporation's Leisure Worlder for the month of February.

Mrs. Neeland's educational thrust at UCLA had been in mathematics, chemistry and physics in quest of a teaching career. After graduation she moved to the Nation's Capitol where her plans to become a pedagogue went sailing out of the Library of Congress windows.

"Everything about the library, especially its beauty, tremendous collections of books and other copyright material was exhilarating," says Frances. "I knew the Library of Congress was where I wanted to begin my career."

She enrolled at The George Washington University's School of Library Science which was the only place offering courses based on Library of Congress systems of classification, cataloguing and research.

A resident of Leisure World for the second time, Frances finds time for community betterment in addition to her duties as a research consultant to Dr. C. Anthony Stellar, surgeon.

When she first moved here in 1967 and again in 1971 after her return, Frances has applied her expertise, especially in the library field, to the good of the community.

On her first arrival, which was prior to the opening of Saddleback Community Hospital, she established a medical library with the encouragement of Dr. Floyd Wergland and the medical staff. She also served as librarian for the Nurses' Educational Committee. While Dr. Jim Jett and Nurse Betty Woods were forming HOSPICE and preparing for a County charter, Frances headed the steering committee for its library. Then there was work with the visually handicapped in addition to more prosaic duties as treasurer for the local chapter of People-to-People, the Audubon Society and the California Club.

Mrs. Neeland spent her girlhood in Southern California. She was graduated from Hollywood High School and UCLA. She left the Library of Congress during World II to go into defense work with the U.S. Air Terminal Service Command in Miami. Frances returned to the Library of Congress at war's end.

Mrs. Neeland's next move was back to The George Washington University as librarian and technical editor of the Naval Logistics Research Project. This paved the way for a position as systems analyst with Remington Rand UNIVAC, in Philadelphia.

A tour of duty with the National Bureau of Standards led to Hughes Aircraft Company beckoning her back to California as Assistant Supervisor of an information retrieval program.

RCA's Data Systems Division in Van Nuys, as a senior staff engineering member, attracted her next and from that assignment she joined the System Development Corporation in Santa Monica. There she organized another information center and special library.

Mrs. Neeland is the mother of three children. Her elder son Robert is a nuclear scientist with General Electric. Son James is a research scientist with the Hughes Research Laboratory. Daughter Geraldine, a linguist, is married and resides in London.

"My first move to Leisure World," says Frances, "was a studied choice. I could hardly wait to get back." Only the delay in obtaining a Garden Villa apartment to her liking prevented an earlier return.

A large painting of a smiling child on a far wall of her living room catches your eye upon entry. A closer look reveals the inscription: "For Frances . . . Sascha." That, of course, is Sascha Braschoff, the renowned sculptor.

The Neeland living room is both picturesque and functional. She calls it her work shop, gymnasium and music room. An electric typewriter, a record player with dual speakers and an exercycle confirm Frances' appraisal of this main room of her abode. In high priority, naturally, are shelves laden with books. Mostly they are tomes on sciences as well as encyclopedias, dictionaries and a wide variety of research sources.

It would not seem proper to ask Frances Neeland if she has them all catalogued and cross-indexed.